



The Epistle

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

July 2026

*Helping people make
life-changing connections
with God through
Jesus Christ.*

A Declaration of Allegiance

This month our country celebrates a milestone event. July 4, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In 1776, the Continental Congress of the thirteen colonies adopted the Declaration. In this act, they dissolved their allegiance to the British Crown so that they might be self-governed.

I often think about the word “allegiance.” It has its roots in the medieval concept of a liege lord—the person to whom one owed primary and ultimate loyalty. In a feudal world where a person might have obligations to many authorities, the liege lord held the highest claim on one’s faithfulness and obedience. This history gives the word a depth that goes far beyond simple support or affection. To speak of allegiance is to speak of ultimate loyalty.



Throughout history, Christians have wrestled with the pull of competing allegiances. The earliest Christian confession, “Jesus is Lord,” emerged in the first century. It challenged the claims of the Roman Empire in a profoundly political way. With this simple confession, Christians rejected the empire’s claim to ultimate loyalty and declared that their highest allegiance belonged to Jesus, who was crucified and raised.

Allegiance to Jesus is what we proclaim whenever we call Jesus our Lord. We have learned through the centuries that whenever Christian faith becomes fused with government, nationalism, or ethnic identity, we risk losing sight of the central confession of our faith: Jesus is Lord. Our loyalty is first to Christ.

The Ten Commandments begin with a question of allegiance. “You shall have no other gods before me.” Before God commands anything else, God claims our loyalty. The remaining commandments describe what life looks like when God holds first place in our hearts and lives. They teach us to love God and to love our neighbor, ordering our lives around God’s vision for the world.

To claim Jesus as Lord causes us to examine all competing demands in the light of the One who comes to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This declaration reminds us that Christ alone holds the highest claim upon our lives, above every nation, ideology, political movement, or earthly authority. We live out this allegiance by following him—trusting his way so deeply that we do everything we can to love our neighbors and strengthen those in need.

In these days, as we feel the patriotic pull of American exceptionalism, we can indeed enter into the celebration. We can give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy and the blessings of our nation. But we must also remember that our allegiance to Jesus is always challenged when we find ourselves chanting “USA” more often than “Jesus Christ,” or fighting for a political party more passionately than following our Lord.

Allegiance. It is a powerful marker in our lives. To whom shall we give it? Jesus. How shall we live it? Faithfully with reflection and humility.

Protecting God's Children

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Matthew 19: 14)

One of St. Luke's core values is that "We celebrate children and lift up families as they are." We do this in a variety of ways – Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Youth Group, Summer Trips, Child Life Ministries and more.

It should go without saying, but I'll say it anyway, part of celebrating children is making sure they are also protected. We are all probably painfully aware of the dangers and exploitations of children in this day and age. It is all too easy for children to suffer maltreatment that can have ripple effects on the rest of their lives.



It is for these reasons and more that the ELCA Church Council adopted "A Social Message on Child Protection" in November of 2025. The adopting of this Social Message at the national level signals the ELCA's commitment to taking child protection seriously. The document can be found here:

<https://www.elca.org/publications/2026-child-protection-theological-discernment-social-messages>

But we must move beyond just words. Social messages remain just documents, unless action steps issue forth from them. And with this understanding, a Task Force from the Greater Milwaukee Synod took up the baton and created a "Recommended Policies and Procedures for a Safe Community for All of God's Children." This was adopted by the Greater Milwaukee Synod Council in May 2026. (In addition to children and youth, this document also advocates for the protection of vulnerable adults).

We are "one church, 3 expressions." As the church at the national and synodical level have raised awareness of the need for protection of youth, children and vulnerable adults, now it is our turn as a local church to respond. I am happy to say that a Task Force of eight members have stepped forward to serve in this important way.

We met once in June to start looking over the synod's "Recommended Policies and Procedures for a Safe Community." Over the coming months, we'll be meeting regularly and taking our recommendations to Council. St. Luke's already has many protective policies and practices in place, and for that we give thanks. Our goal as a Task Force is to review, improve, and cover any "gaps" so that both children, youth, vulnerable adults and all the volunteers who work with them are protected.

(One important note – when we are talking about "safe community" here we are not referring to things such as security measures, active shooter preparedness, etc. Those discussions have been had in the past but are not part of this Task Force's "task.")

Over the coming months, the Task Force will be sharing more and providing education in a variety of ways. We all share the sacred calling of creating sacred and safe spaces for ALL of God's children. Thank you for sharing and joining us in this commitment.

Pastor Maren

Saturday Social July 18

Join the Youth on Saturday, July 18, for dinner, conversation and a little laughter following the Saturday service. July's Theme is - It's summer, time to kick back and relax. We will have pulled pork and fixings with s'mores for dessert. Assuming Mother Nature cooperates, we will be outside. Sign up at Sign Up Central.

Summer Pick-Up Choir Dates

Our summer pick-up choir returns again this year! This is a time to come and sing, try out singing at St. Luke's, or just keep your vocal skills up over the summer. We will gather at 8:45 a.m. to learn something to sing in worship at our 9:30 a.m. service. All ages are invited to join us and sing! We will gather on July 12, and August 16. For more information contact Michael Schaner, Director of Music Ministries at mschaner@stlukeslutheran.org



Flat Jesus Returns!

Last year Flat Jesus, based on Flat Stanley, traveled with us to so many places all around the world. He returns again this year to join us on our travels! You can pick up your own Flat Jesus to decorate from the Welcome Center. Take him with you on your trips, pose with him in photos, and then send your photos to Shari Higgins at shigs@stlukeslutheran.org to be shared with the congregation on Facebook and the screens around the church.

No Worship on July 4

This year, July 4 falls on a Saturday, and as it's the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, there will be no Saturday 5:00 p.m. worship on July 4. Join us on Sunday, July 5, for worship at 9:30 a.m.

Music Camp 2026 Loving Our Neighbors!

Music Camp takes place this month starting July 27! For students entering kindergarten and 1st grade we have a morning camp from 9:00-11:30 a.m. For students entering 2nd-7th grade we have a full day camp from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Our days are filled with singing, Bible stories, devotions, instruments, fun adventures, and more! Join us in worship on Sunday, August 2, as the campers present what they learned in our week together. For more information, contact Mr. Schaner, Director of Music Ministries, at mschaner@stlukeslutheran.org.

Guest Preacher Héctor Colón, President and CEO, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan on July 26, at the 9:30 a.m. Service

Our Mission of the Month for July is Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. On Sunday, July 26, Héctor Colón, President and CEO of LSS, will be our guest preacher. Francesca Kempfer, Director of Advancement for LSS, will also join us that day.

For more than a century, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS) has stood at the forefront of urgent community needs, responding with courage, compassion, and conviction. The support you provide for this ministry through your tithes and offerings at St. Luke's Lutheran makes a difference in the lives of nearly 30,000 neighbors every year. Thank you for your generosity!

Héctor and Francesca will share exciting updates about how LSS programs are growing in the Greater Milwaukee Synod area to better meet community need. LSS programs and services are designed to flexibly meet people where they are, ensuring that a child in need of a safe home or mental health support, an individual facing addiction, a family navigating disability services, or a refugee building a new life all receive the specialized support they deserve. Learn more at <https://www.lsswis.org/>

Héctor Colón has served as President and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS) since 2017. Under Colón's visionary and innovative leadership, LSS has adapted new models and business strategies to increase relevancy and operational efficiency. Colón recently was named the Nonprofit Executive of the Year by BizTimes Media and the Hispanic Man of the year by UMOs.

Memorials

In gratitude, we received memorials to support the ongoing ministry of St. Luke's. You, too, can memorialize others with gifts to St. Luke's. You can also honor loved ones with honorariums given to St. Luke's. Memorials and honorariums will be listed here each month. During the month of **MAY**, the following memorials and honorariums were made:

<u>In Honor of</u>	<u>Given By</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Jan Scherer, Mother's Day	Sandy Scherer	New Roof

<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Given By</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Roger Bjerke	Friends of Julie Baumler	Undesignated
Mick Hendrickson	Anonymous	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Wendy Bacon	Youth
Mick Hendrickson	Sue Bangle	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Janet Christenson	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Jacalyn Davis	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Anne Erke	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Brian & Nancy Farrell	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Janice Ferguson	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Carolynn Fish	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Jay & Kathy Fontaine	Youth
Mick Hendrickson	Don French	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Paul & Jody Geibl	Youth
Mick Hendrickson	Kathy Hager	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Chris & Allan Jackson	Good Samaritan
Mick Hendrickson	Debbie Knee	New Roof
Mick Hendrickson	Eileen Kron	Youth
Mick Hendrickson	Art & Pam Olson	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Ron & Kathy Pederson	Parameters
Mick Hendrickson	Ed & Arlene Raether	New Roof
Mick Hendrickson	Scot & Kristine Ruffatto	New Roof
Mick Hendrickson	Ron & Cheri Staub	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Curt & Janet Steinquist	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Dennis & Diane Voit	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Steve & Cathy Whitsitt	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Sharon Van Beek	New Van
Mick Hendrickson	Sharon Wood	New Van
Robert Jacobson	Family of Robert	Undesignated

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Do you have a special designation for your Thrivent Choice dollars? All Thrivent Choice dollars are held in the Memorial Fund as undesignated and will be assigned a purpose as needed. If you know where you want your Thrivent Choice dollars to go, please let us know by calling or emailing Cindy in the finance office. Thank you!

Remembering the Church

Giving to the church in memory of someone who has died is a great way to make a gift. Naming the church as a recipient of memorials is a powerful way to support the ministry that has supported you throughout your life. Memorials are used for a variety of purposes. When giving or designating memorials, you can choose to have gifts given to certain ongoing projects of the church such as music ministry, youth ministry, Christian education, and so on. You can also choose to leave memorials undesignated, in which case the funds will be used to support needs as they arise. Memorial gifts are acknowledged in our monthly newsletter. If you have questions about memorials, talk with Pastor Jordan. He will help you think about ways you can make an impact through memorial giving.

St. Luke's Preschool

This fall marks the 30th year that St. Luke's Preschool has been in operation! All preschool classes are almost full for the fall! If you know of anyone that is looking for a Preschool, tell them to contact Liz ASAP at (262) 522-6747 or landerson@stlukeslutheran.org for more information. Here are the options we offer for Preschool:

For 2-year-olds: We offer "First Steps to Preschool" program, which is a unique child-and-adult offering designed to provide children with a fun variety of educational, faith-based, and social experiences.

For 3-year-olds: We offer half-day Preschool 2 mornings a week, from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m.

For 4-year-olds: We offer half-day Preschool 2 or 3 mornings a week, from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. Preschool classes feature a faith-based Pre-K curriculum, small class sizes, professional early childhood staff, "chapel chats" with Pastor Jordan, weekly music classes, loving personalized attention and so much more!

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a way to give back to the community? Our Preschool classes LOVE volunteers! An extra set of hands is great to help us complete cooking activities, messy art projects, etc. All you need to volunteer is a quick training session at the beginning of the year and a background check. We will teach you the rest! All are welcome! Please contact Liz at (262) 522-6747 or landerson@stlukeslutheran.org for more information.

Thank You to Our Child Life Ministries Team

The Church Council received a Thrivent Action Team grant titled "Appreciating Child Life Ministries Staff." Child Life Ministries (CLM) enables St. Luke's to serve more

than 100 families by providing child care for children ages 6 weeks to 13 years, preschool classes, and a 4K partnership with the School District of Waukesha.

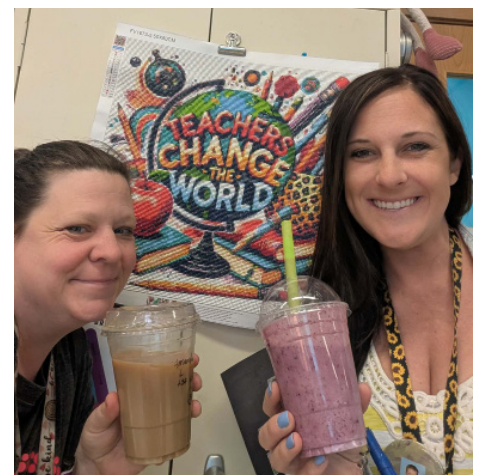
The Thrivent Action Team provided a \$250 grant as seed money for a meal and other gifts as expressions of gratitude for the CLM staff. Thrivent Action Team grants are an easy way to help cover some of the costs for charitable projects, whether local or global. If you would like assistance applying for a Thrivent grant, please contact Diane Voit at (262) 993-0104.

If you receive a grant as seed money for a project, please notify Cindy Maigatter, Financial Administrator, at finance@stlukeslutheran.org. Cindy will record the generosity shared by Thrivent through 2026.



Kwik Trip Cards Fundraiser

Summer is here and so are road trips! Summer in Wisconsin is a great time to take a road trip or a Sunday drive and explore our beautiful state. Support our youth by purchasing Kwik Trip gift cards, perfect for gas, groceries, snacks, or car washes. Cards are sold at face value in common amounts like \$25, \$50, and \$100; other denominations are available by request. Car wash cards, 5-count, are also available. Buy cards Sunday mornings or order using the form at the Welcome Station. This year-round fundraiser supports youth programming. Contact Cari at youth@stlukeslutheran.org for questions or special orders that are usually available within two weeks or ordering



Church Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

Phone: (262) 542-2545**Fax:** (262) 542-1254**Website:** www.stlukeslutheran.org**Facebook:** facebook.com/sllcwauk**Pastor Lindsay Jordan****Senior Pastor**pj@stlukeslutheran.org**Pastor Maren Hooper****Associate Pastor**pastormaren@stlukeslutheran.org**Michael Schaner****Director of Music Ministries**mschaner@stlukeslutheran.org**Cari Thompson****Youth Director**youth@stlukeslutheran.org**Shari Higgins****Assistant for Engagement**shigs@stlukeslutheran.org**Laurie Rohrwasser****Care and Prayer Ministries**lrohrwasser@stlukeslutheran.org**Cindy Maigatter****Financial Administrator**finance@stlukeslutheran.org**Courtney Stangl****Director of Child Life Ministries**

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**St. Luke's
Lutheran Church
Core Values
Honoring God
and serving
Jesus Christ:**

1. We share Jesus Christ and make disciples.
2. We worship God together.
3. We are curious, courageous, and open to the Holy Spirit.
4. We celebrate children and lift up families as they are.
5. We practice kindness and uphold the dignity of each individual.
6. We are committed to being an inclusive community of grace.
7. We stand ready to serve and advocate for our neighbors.
8. We honor our past and look to God's future for us.

July Council Contact**Zach Eschenburg**zackesch88@gmail.com

(414) 732-4582

**July Mission Lutheran
Social Services Wisconsin
and Upper Michigan**

LSS empowers people to live their best lives by offering a path to recovery from addiction or mental illness, a home that's safe and affordable, a family to thrive in, independence and a life that is truly their own.

**Congregation
Council News**

1. Safe Church Task Force Launches. Our newly formed "Safe Church" Task Force held its inaugural meeting on June 9, to review synod guidelines and strengthen our community

protections. This vital, long-term initiative focuses on keeping our congregation secure, particularly our youth and vulnerable adults.

Top Priorities:

• **Background Checks:** Ensuring comprehensive screening for all required positions.

• **Annual Training:** Implementing mandatory safety training for all teachers and volunteers.

• **Next Meeting:** Joining us on July 27, is Pastor Myron Crawford (Vernon), who served on the synod task force and will act as our resource guide.

2. Gratitude for Our Worship Flexibility. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone for your incredible patience and flexibility during our current building transitions. With the sanctuary temporarily closed, your willingness to adapt to alternative spaces has kept our community vibrant and connected. Thank you for continuing to show up for one another with grace and a positive spirit!

3. Thank You for Your Generous Giving

Your financial stewardship is directly transforming our ministry and maintaining our church home. We are grateful for the recent outpouring of structural and community gifts.

Impact Highlights:

• **Roof Fund:** Helping us secure and protect our physical building for years to come.

• **New Van Fund:** Expanding our CLM capabilities and transportation safety.

• **Scholarship Fund:** Directly investing in the future and education of our community.

Planning a Wedding

Our website has information about getting married at or through St. Luke's Lutheran Church. Download the Preparing for a Wedding booklet from the weddings page of our website and you can learn about ceremonies in our sanctuary, chapel, or offsite. Visit <https://stlukeslutheran.org/> for information.

Welcome to the Font

A Baptismal Gathering Pre-baptismal gathering, Welcome to the Font, is a time for parents preparing for baptism to join together with other parents while learning about God's work for them and their children in Holy Baptism. Welcome to the Font is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Center. Baptisms are scheduled only after attending a Welcome to the Font gathering. To attend call the church office at (262) 542-2545.

Preparing for a Funeral

Our ministry of walking with people at times of death is an important work of this church. To help families prepare for a funeral, we've developed a booklet entitled, Preparing for a Funeral. You can download this resource from the funerals page of our website. Our pastors are available for any who would like to prepare for a funeral.

Greetings and Gratitude from Our Partners in Tanzania

Recently, St. Luke's received a heartfelt message from Mr. Baraka Melitha, Chairperson of the Partnership Committee for our companion congregations, Kilimamoja and Maroroni Lutheran Parishes in Tanzania. He asked that we share the

greetings and appreciation of their congregations with the people of St. Luke's. Kilimamoja and Mararoni are five churches organized in two parishes. They are led by Pastor Nathan Makege and Pastor Lazarro Urio.

On behalf of both congregations, Mr. Melitha expressed thanks for the financial support provided through our longstanding partnership. He shared that funds sent from St. Luke's have been used to strengthen the ministry and daily operations of the congregations. Among the immediate needs addressed were outstanding obligations for health insurance, national social security contributions, and support for the pastors, evangelists, and administrative staff who serve throughout the parish communities.

The support has also benefited Maranatha Preschool, helping provide teacher salaries and needed educational equipment. These investments help ensure that both congregational and educational ministries can continue serving their communities faithfully and effectively. Maranatha Preschool was started after our partners were inspired by their visit to St. Luke's in 2019. They saw our early childhood education program and wanted to do adapt the vision for the children of their neighborhood.

Mr. Melitha wrote, "We are proud to have this partnership. We pray for you and our partnership, and let's pray for each other."

Those words remind us that our relationship with Kilimamoja and Maroroni is much more than a financial partnership. Through the Greater Milwaukee Synod's Companion Synod Program, we are connected as brothers and sisters

in Christ, sharing one faith and one mission across continents. We support one another not only through gifts and resources, but also through prayer, encouragement, and mutual friendship.

As we hear these words of gratitude, we also give thanks to God for the generosity of the people of St. Luke's. Your gifts are making a tangible difference in the lives of our partners in Tanzania. Earnings from our endowment Fund, mission funds of the month, and other gifts provide regular support for our partners. Together, we continue to bear witness to the unity of Christ's church and the blessings that come when congregations walk alongside one another in faith.

Please continue to keep the people of Kilimamoja and Maroroni in your prayers, just as they faithfully keep St. Luke's and our congregation in theirs.

Mr. Baraka Melitha



Maranatha Preschool, Pastor Urio in the back



Your Help Is Needed Roof and Van Campaign

This rainy spring has brought many leaks to our attention. Due to the age of the roof, now more than 20 years old, and the numerous issues, we are following the guidance to replace the pitched roof over both the sanctuary and the chapel. This will be an expensive, but necessary endeavor to maintain our beautiful worship spaces. In addition, our 21-year-old church and childcare van also needs replacement. We are faced with two large capital purchases at the same time. Your financial help is much needed. If you would like to help offset the cost of the new chapel and sanctuary roof, please indicate "New Roof" on your offering. If you would like to help fund the new church and childcare van, please indicate "New Van" on your offering. Any additional support you can give would be most appreciated. Thank you in advance for your faithful stewardship!

Sanctuary Update

Work continues to return worship services to the sanctuary. The Facilities Committee, the Amigos, the Church Council, and the Worship committee are monitoring the progress and working hard to move repairs and inspections forward.

These things we know: The sanctuary will need a deep professional cleaning before we worship in it again. Each suspended light needs to be examined for the sturdiness of connection to the ceiling. The organ sustained damage and will need repair. New lights will need to be installed in the balcony. This means, we will be using equipment and scaffolding in the sanctuary. We ask that people stay out of the sanctuary until this work is completed.

We did not expect the roofing proj-

ect to cause this damage. Thank you to all who are helping us adjust and reframe our worship life. Thank you for your flexibility as we worship in the hospitality center.

Prayer Ministry

How can our Prayer Team pray for you, a friend or loved one? We are ready to lift up prayers for you during the joys and trials of your life. If you or someone you know needs prayer for any reason, please contact Laurie Rohrwasser, lrohrwasser@stlukeslutheran.org. Perhaps you know of someone who could use a note of encouragement or well wishes, please let her know.

Prayer Team

Scripture encourages us to bear one another's burdens. Lifting others up in prayer is a way to do that. The need for prayer and for people to pray grows daily! Please consider becoming a member of our Prayer Team. There are no meetings or phone calls to make. You will receive prayer requests via email and are asked to pray daily. No specific prayer, although suggestions are given in the email you receive. Simply ask God to guide you. Did you know you can pray any time and any place? How about while brushing your teeth or showering, during your kids' practices or games, while waiting for appointments? All that is asked is that you pray daily. Please consider joining this vital ministry. For information, contact Laurie Rohrwasser.

Extending Care for You

Our pastors make visits and calls to people in need of pastoral care. If you would like pastoral care, please call the church office at (262) 542-2545. This is especially important if you are going through life transitions, illness, or trauma. If

you change your address or enter a care facility or rehab center, please update the church office.

Online Giving

To start giving electronically or make changes to your on-line giving, please log on to our website and click on "Online Giving" on the far right. You can also fill out the paper authorization form and return it to the church office. Paper authorization forms are available at the Welcome Center.

Tee Up for Hope

Join the Hope Center for their annual Tee Up for Hope golf outing at the Broadlands Golf Club on Monday, July 13. There will be team scramble events with prizes, hole events, raffles, auctions, lunch buffet and post-golf heavy hors d'oeuvres social. For tickets go to <https://hopecenterwi.org/event/tee-up-for-hope-golf-outing-2026/>

Help For the Hope Center

There are many ways to help the Hope Center. Sorters are needed in the Clothing Shop, prep and serve breakfast and lunch, dates can vary. You can volunteer by contacting (262) 549-8726. Check out their website for their weekly donation request list at <https://hopecenterwi.org/donate-now/>. Hope Center address is 101 W Broadway, Waukesha

Support the Food Pantry

You can make monetary donations to the pantry through their website. Leaders of the pantry want us to know that canned fruits and veggies along with soups have been limited the last few months. When shopping for yourself, pick up some for our neighbors and drop them in the food pantry barrels as you leave the grocery store, or bring to church to drop in the cart by door.

Human Sexuality - Gift and Trust Reconsideration Process

The task force has released a new study to foster conversation across this church and to generate feedback that will guide its work. The study, “Conscience and Conversation: A Study During the Reconsideration of the Social Statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,” invites reflection on agreement and disagreement in a church called to pursue justice and peace together through “the unity of the Spirit” (Ephesians 4:3).

The sessions in the study come ready to use with prayers, hymns, Bible readings, conversation questions, and options for dividing the study into smaller sessions. There is a survey link for participants to share feedback with the task force.

Please prayerfully consider leading your congregation or small group in this study. Your feedback is essential as the task force prepares a first draft of the social statement for the church to consider.

The survey is open until Sept. 30, though additional questions and feedback can be sent to the task force through their website listed below.

The Process

In 2022, the Churchwide Assembly authorized two reconsiderations of the Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust (2009) social statement:

- Reconsideration #1: A review of specific text references that “would consider the import that marriage legally is now a covenant between individuals;” review specific wording “in light of public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender-non-conforming couples;” and “consider references to diversity of family configurations;” and
- Reconsideration #2: A fresh consideration of the “church’s current concept of the four positions of bound conscience” found on pages 19-21 of Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust.

In Spring 2024, the ELCA Church Council Executive Committee seated a task force to lead work on both reconsiderations. The task force represents a diversity of perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences. To learn about task force members visit their website listed below.

The first reconsideration process was completed at the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Edits to Section IV were amended and adopted by a two-thirds vote (724-46). The task force has now started the process for the second reconsideration. Resources related to the reconsideration will be made available throughout the process. As with the first reconsideration, the task force will provide a draft statement for public feedback.

Resources

New! Covenant: The task force has created a group covenant to identify the values and expectations that will guide its discussions and work together. This covenant is a living document that is reviewed at each task force meeting to ensure it continues to meet the task force’s needs as they lead the church in this work. Read the full task force covenant through their website listed below.

FAQs: You can read FAQs about the task force’s work through their website listed below. The FAQs are also available in Spanish and in large-print.

Timeline: To read a timeline of the task force’s work, their website is listed below.

Current Social Statement: Read the full social statement as adopted in 2025, through their website listed below.

Questions: Questions about the process can be sent to the task force at Reconsiderations@elca.org.

Website to reference for this article

<https://www.elca.org/publications/2026-human-sexuality-theological-discernment-current-project>

Do You Have a Talent to Share

Our prayer basket keeps running empty, and we would love your help keeping it full! If you enjoy working with yarn, cloth, wood, or other materials, we invite you to share your talents. You may create your own idea or find something online that you would like to try. If you are interested in starting a monthly group meeting on Thursday's, please let Gloria Brechlin know, she would love to hear from you! Also, the Prayer Shawl ministry is still alive and well. To everyone who works with yarn, we truly appreciate all that you do. Keep up the wonderful work! Please contact Gloria Brechlin with any questions, (262) 547-8096.

Communication is Important

Communicating when, where, what, why, and how is important. If there is something you would like communicated in the weekly bulletin, weekly Connections email, or the monthly Epistle newsletter, it's as easy as writing the announcement and emailing it to office@stlukeslutheran.org or stopping by the office with your article by the deadlines. The deadlines for the bulletin and Connections are 12:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the Thursday or the weekend you would want the information in Connections or bulletin. The deadline for the monthly Epistle newsletter is the 15th of the month unless the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday; then, the deadline is the Friday before. If you have any questions, please reach out either by email or call the church office at (262) 542-2545.

Committing to Worship

We are encouraging each other all year long to commit/recommit to deeper engagement in worship. Perhaps you've drifted away from regular worship attendance. Come back and let God feed you in the Word and at the table of Holy Communion. Maybe while you're here, you might be called to participate more fully in the liturgies we speak and sing together. Commit yourself/ yourselves to deeper engagement in worship. The more you engage God in worship, the deeper your relationship with Him grows.

Flower and Coffee Hour Sponsorship

We are very blessed to see so many participating in sponsoring Coffee Hour and Ambo Flowers to honor or celebrate a loved one or a special occasion! If you have signed up on the poster or the Coffee Hour board, please drop off your offerings to cover the sponsorship at the church office, offering plate, or via mail. Please include which sponsorship you are paying in the memo line, envelope detail, or a simple note. The cost of the sponsorships are as follows: Flowers: \$50 per weekend, Coffee Hour: \$30 for 2 weekends or \$55 for a month. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy in the church office. Many thanks!

2026 Monthly Coffee Hour Sponsorship

The 2026 Monthly Coffee Hour Sponsorship is now available at Sign Up Central. The fee for the coffee hour is \$30 for 2 weekends or \$55 for the whole month. With the sponsorship, you receive the option to have displayed up to 12 pictures on the high tables in the narthex and Hospitality area. The picture(s) should be received in the office no later than the 15th of the month

Serving in Worship

There are a variety of ways to serve the community whenever we worship. Each of the ways is equally important to our weekly experience of God's grace. You can serve as a lector, an usher, a member of the altar guild, a communion assistant and more. We use "Ministry Scheduler Pro," an online tool, to help people schedule their worship ministry involvement. If you have an account on Ministry Scheduler Pro, you received an email inviting you to update your profile and involvement. That email also contained your credentials to log in. The spotlight section of our website's homepage also has a link to our Ministry Scheduler that you can follow. Our goal is to develop schedules that use the many gifts and talents present in our congregation. Please log on to Ministry Scheduler Pro, update your profile, and let us know any dates you are not available to serve.

Good Samaritan Fund Continues Ministry

We are blessed to have been able to help so many people through the Good Samaritan Fund. We have helped people secure housing, stay in their homes, afford medicine, participate in drug/alcohol programs, pay for funeral expenses, care for children and so much more. Your help in boosting its balance would allow us to continue to care for people who come to the church looking for help. You can contribute by putting your gift in an envelope clearly marked for the Good Samaritan Fund. Place your gifts in the offering or drop them off in the office. Thank you!

St. Luke's Calendar for July 2026

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	July 1 N.A.	Sunday 9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	July 19 Worship Men's A.A.
Thursday 7:00 p.m.	July 2 Broad Hwy. A.A.	Monday 8:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	July 20 Amigos! Al-Anon
Saturday NO Worship	July 4	Tuesday 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	July 21 Finance Committee Church Council
Sunday 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	July 5 Worship Executive Committee Men's A.A.	Wednesday 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	July 22 N.A. Square Dancers
Monday Church Office Closed 6:30 p.m.	July 6 Al-Anon	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	July 23 Broad Hwy. A.A.
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	July 8 CLM Board Meeting N.A. Square Dancers	Saturday 5:00 p.m.	July 25 Worship
Thursday 7:00 p.m.	July 9 Broad Hwy. A.A.	Sunday 9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	July 26 Worship Men's A.A.
Saturday 5:00 p.m.	July 11 Worship	Monday 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	July 27 Amigos! Music Camp Al-Anon
Sunday 8:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	July 12 Summer Pick-up Choir Worship Mt. Meru Coffee Sales Men's A.A.	Tuesday 9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	July 28 Music Camp Personnel Committee
Monday 8:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	July 13 Amigos! F&M Committee Al-Anon	Wednesday 9:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	July 29 Music Camp Generosity Meeting N.A.
Tuesday 4:30 p.m.	July 14 Worship Committee	Thursday 9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	July 30 Music Camp Broad Hwy. A.A.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	July 15 N.A.	Friday 9:00 a.m.	July 31 Music Camp
Thursday 7:00 p.m.	July 16 Broad Hwy. A.A.	The deadline for the next Issue of The Epistle is Wednesday, July 15.	
Saturday 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	July 18 Worship Saturday Social		

Please Remember all calendar dates and times are subject to change as needed. Check for updates on the online calendar www.stlukeslutheran.org.

Are You Receiving Our Weekly Connections Email

Each week we send out an email called Connections. It includes announcements, links, information about worship schedules, community events, and so much more. If you are not receiving it, email the office, office@stlukeslutheran.org to be added to the email list.

Epistle Online

Are you still receiving a paper copy of The Epistle in the mail? Reading The Epistle online saves paper and postage, allows you to print only the pages you want, and includes live links. If you would like to receive our weekly Connections email and our monthly newsletter, The Epistle, by email please contact the church office at (262) 542-2545 or office@stlukeslutheran.org.

Stay Connected With What's Ahead

Do you want to know what's happening in the days and weeks ahead at our church? Visit our Church Calendar on the church website! It's the best place to find upcoming events, ministry activities, service times, and special announcements. Simply go to our website and click on Calendar to stay updated and get involved. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!



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Plants & Pints Night for Young Adults (Ages 20-40)

Join us on Wednesday, July 22, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Tap Yard in Waukesha for a creative evening as we make SoCuteLent at the succulent bar! Imagine relaxing in a beer garden, enjoying beverages, sharing laughter, and crafting a succulent planter while taking in the outdoors. You'll be guided step-by-step, starting with a 4" succulent, then customizing your planter with colorful gravel and a variety of decorative elements like stones, marbles, shells, and driftwood. Each participant will also receive exclusive wire leaves handcrafted by Two Mikes Art Factory, along with a bamboo or feather butterfly to complete the design. The succulent bar will be open from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and the cost is \$35 (plus tax). Please note this workshop is non-refundable, but if you're unable to attend, you may send someone in your place. You can reserve tickets in advance or pay at the door if space is available. To purchase advance tickets, search "Two Mikes Art Factory" on Facebook and visit the event registration page. For more information or to let someone know you plan to attend, please contact Pastor Maren.



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